

**CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION**

1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, California 95814

Main website: [www.energy.ca.gov](http://www.energy.ca.gov)



In the matter of the Design of the New Solar	)	Docket No. 06-NSHP-1
Homes Partnership	)	
	)	Notice of Staff Workshop
	)	RE: New Solar Homes Partnership

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## Notice of Staff Workshop on Upcoming Changes to the New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook

The California Energy Commission staff will conduct a workshop to discuss upcoming changes to the *New Solar Homes Partnership (NSHP) Guidebook*.

**TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2011**

10 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

First Floor, Hearing Room A

Sacramento, California

(Wheelchair Accessible)

### Remote Attendance and Availability of Documents

**Internet Webcast** - Presentations and audio from the meeting will be broadcast via our WebEx web meeting service. For details on how to participate via WebEx, please see the "Remote Attendance" section toward the end of this notice.

### Purpose

The purpose of this workshop is to solicit comments from interested parties on upcoming changes to the *NSHP Guidebook*.

The anticipated changes encompass several aspects of the program, including the need to clarify the NSHP requirements with respect to the California Building Energy Efficiency Standards (Standards) that are in effect at the time the builder applies for a building permit for the building ("pulls the permit"). Other proposed changes include the

potential eligibility of military housing for affordable housing incentives, the potential eligibility of transient housing in the NSHP, and the impact of an incentive decline to market-rate and affordable housing.

Energy Commission staff will also share results from stakeholder surveys on solar energy and the NSHP program, with the goal of soliciting stakeholder comments to streamline program processes and increase participation in the NSHP.

## **Background**

The Energy Commission's NSHP is part of a comprehensive statewide solar program known as the California Solar Initiative. The NSHP provides financial incentives to encourage the installation of eligible solar energy systems on new residential construction. The NSHP is focusing efforts on new residential buildings and seeks to achieve 400 megawatts of distributed solar photovoltaic electricity generation by the end of 2016.

### *Energy Efficiency Requirements*

The third edition of the *NSHP Guidebook* includes energy efficiency requirements that must be satisfied for applicants to qualify for funding. The *NSHP Guidebook* requires applicants to meet the Standards in effect at the time that the building permit is pulled for the home. For homes where building permits are pulled after the January 1, 2010, effective date of the 2008 Standards, the energy efficiency requirements for NSHP would be, at a minimum, 15 percent (Tier I) more efficient than the 2008 Standards. NSHP applications submitted and whose building permits were pulled after January 1, 2010, would be in full compliance with the third edition of the *NSHP Guidebook*. However, there are a number of homes in reservation applications submitted prior to January 1, 2010, that have continued to be credited for meeting NSHP energy efficiency requirements with respect to the 2005 Standards, even though building permits for those homes were pulled after January 1, 2010.

Energy Commission staff proposes to amend the *NSHP Guidebook* to clarify the expectation that homes that are not yet permitted are expected to meet the energy efficiency requirements with respect to the Standards that are in effect at the time that the building permits are pulled. Energy Commission staff proposes to develop amendments to sections of the *NSHP Guidebook* to clarify this expectation and establish clear procedures (including amended forms) for obtaining notification of when building permits are pulled, and how the home will meet the energy efficiency requirements with respect to the Standards in effect at that time. This will enable the proper energy efficiency requirements to be verified at the time of payment. Staff is anticipating that an effective date of January 1, 2012 should be established, after which the amended *NSHP Guidebook* provisions would need to be met by all projects. Staff is interested in stakeholder comment on how these procedures should work and on the proposed January 1, 2012, effective date.

### *Military Housing*

Energy Commission staff recently received an inquiry on whether new solar homes on military bases would qualify for NSHP affordable housing incentives. On November 3, 2010, the Renewables Committee determined that military housing may be eligible for NSHP incentives. However, the Renewables Committee and Energy Commission staff are interested in stakeholder comment on how the eligibility of military housing would impact affordable housing megawatt targets and the incentive decline schedule.

### *Transient Housing*

Energy Commission staff received inquiries from stakeholders on whether certain types of transient housing would be eligible for NSHP incentives. Under the current *NSHP Guidebook*, transient housing is not eligible for funding. The *NSHP Guidebook* specifies hotels and motels as examples of housing that has transient occupancy, and are not eligible for the program. The Renewables Committee is considering expanding eligibility for certain types of transient housing consistent with program goals. During this workshop, Energy Commission staff will solicit stakeholder comment on how to expand eligibility either by defining transient housing or by providing specific examples of transient housing that would be eligible under the program.

### *Incentive Decline*

To date, the program has already exceeded its first megawatt goal of 15 MW for market-rate housing and 1.5 MW for affordable housing. Staff is interested in stakeholder comment on whether an incentive decline is appropriate at this time for the program.

### *Stakeholder Survey Results and Comments*

The Renewable Energy Office's technical contractor, KEMA, Inc., conducted homebuilder, solar contractor, and NSHP Advisory Committee member surveys to understand stakeholder views on solar energy and the NSHP program. After a presentation on the survey results at the workshop, Energy Commission staff will request stakeholder comment and ideas to streamline program processes and increase participation in the NSHP.

## **Written Comments**

Written comments on the meeting topics shall be emailed by 5:00 p.m. on February 15, 2011 to [docket@energy.state.ca.us] and [smiller@energy.state.ca.us], or mailed or delivered to the following address:

California Energy Commission  
Dockets Office, MS-4  
Re: Docket No. 06-NSHP-1  
1516 Ninth Street  
Sacramento, CA 95814-5504

The Energy Commission encourages comments by e-mail. Please include the docket number 06-NSHP-1 and indicate *Staff Workshop on the Anticipated Changes to the New Solar Homes Partnership Guidebook* in the subject line or first paragraph of your comments. Please include your name or organization's in the name of the file. Those submitting attached comments by electronic mail should provide them in either Microsoft Word format or as a Portable Document (PDF) to [docket@energy.state.ca.us]. **One paper copy** must also be sent to the Energy Commission's Docket Unit.

Participants may also provide an original and 10 copies at the beginning of the workshop. All written materials relating to this workshop will be filed with the Dockets Unit and become part of the public record in this proceeding.

## **Public Participation**

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission activities. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser's Office at (916) 654-4489 or toll free at (800) 822-6228, by FAX at (916) 654-4493, or by e-mail at [ [PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:PublicAdviser@energy.state.ca.us) ] If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Lou Quiroz at (916) 654-5146 at least five days in advance.

Please direct all news media inquiries to the Media and Public Communications Office at (916) 654-4989, or by e-mail at [ [mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us](mailto:mediaoffice@energy.state.ca.us) ].

If you have questions on the technical subject matter of this meeting, please call Sandy Miller at 916-654-5166 or by e-mail at [ [smiller@energyg.state.ca.us](mailto:smiller@energyg.state.ca.us) ].

## **Remote Attendance**

You can participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you listen to the audio via your telephone. Please be aware that the meeting's WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded.

### **Computer Log-on with Telephone Audio:**

1. Please go to <https://energy.webex.com> and enter the unique meeting number: 927 667 399
2. When prompted, enter your name other information as directed and the meeting password: nshp@10am

## **Teleconference:**

After logging in on the computer, an AUDIO CONFERENCE BOX will offer you the choice of phone connections:

1. TO HAVE WEBEX CALL YOU BACK: Type your area code and phone number and click "Call Me".
2. TO CALL INTO THE TELECONFERENCE: Use the drop-down box to select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
3. INTERNATIONAL CALLERS: Click on the "Global call-in number" link in part (2) above
4. TO LISTEN OVER THE COMPUTER: If you have the needed equipment and your computer is configured, click on "Use Computer Headset" and then "Call Using Computer" to use VoIP (Internet phone)

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If you have difficulty joining the meeting, please call the WebEx Technical Support number at 1-866-229-3239.

Date: January 26, 2011

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JAMES D. BOYD  
Vice Chairman and Presiding Member  
Renewables Committee

Mail Lists: Go Solar and PV Calculator List-serv